

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 712 without my signature.

Preschool can be a valuable addition to the education of many children, and I believe strongly that every child should be ready and able to succeed once they enter into the school system. My Administration recognizes that preschool, child care, and school readiness programs are important factors to the future academic success and well being of California's youth. At the same time, I also strongly believe that before we make promises about expanding the preschool system, I want to be sure that the State can actually deliver on that promise.

Governing responsibly requires me to provide the State with a clear understanding of the potentially billions of dollars in costs and other requirements of preschool, in relation to the benefits and resources available, before determining the scope of the commitment that we can all enter into together. Some research and study has already been conducted and even more will be produced in the near term. My commitment to comprehensive school readiness is strong. My Administration will work in collaboration with the California Children and Families Commission and other interested groups and parties to assess the infrastructure and options available in providing a statewide preschool program. However, doing so does not require additional legislative authority, and therefore, this bill is unnecessary.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger